



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

**BURLINGTON, VERMONT December 7, 2005**

The Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Vermont announced that Rodger Kolsky, 62, of Schenectady, NY, was sentenced yesterday in United States District Court in Brattleboro to two years of probation following his guilty plea to a charge of money laundering. U.S. District Judge J. Garvan Murtha also ordered that Kolsky pay restitution totaling \$60,000.

According to court records, Kolsky was formerly an employee of the Law Centers for Consumer Protection, a Bennington-based debt reduction company that went bankrupt in January 2003. In November 2003, a federal grand jury in Rutland returned a superseding indictment charging Kolsky and six other defendants with fraud, money laundering, interstate transmittal of stolen money and related crimes stemming from their alleged looting of millions of dollars of client money from the Law Centers. In May 2004, Kolsky pleaded guilty to money laundering. In his plea, Kolsky admitted that in late February or early March 2002, he assisted in wire-transferring \$60,000 that he knew or should have known had been stolen from the Law Centers.

Co-defendants Howard Sinnott, Thomas Daly and Shirley DiNatale have also pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentencing, as are Jerry Forkey and Stephanie Gardner, who were separately charged. Andrew Capoccia, the founder of the Law Centers, was convicted after trial on thirteen counts of mail and wire fraud, interstate transportation and receipt of stolen funds and money laundering and also is awaiting sentencing.

This matter has been investigated by the Burlington office of the FBI and the New York State Attorney General's Office. Kolsky is represented by Kerry DeWolfe of Barre. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Gregory Waples and James Gelber.